

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (original) A method of purifying a metal salt which comprises bringing the metal salt formed by melting an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt or a mixture thereof into contact with one or more of titanium, titanium alloy, zirconium and zirconium alloy, thereby adsorbing impurities in the metal salt.
2. (original) A purification method of a metal salt according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt is melted in a vessel made of titanium or titanium alloy, or a vessel lined with titanium or titanium alloy.
3. (previously presented) A purification method of a metal salt according to claim 1, wherein foil-like titanium is used as an adsorbent.
4. (previously presented) A method of deoxidizing a titanium material comprising dissolving metallic calcium to a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 1 and bringing the same into contact with the titanium material.
5. (original) A deoxidization method of a titanium material according to claim 4, wherein calcium chloride is used as the molten salt.
6. (currently amended) A deoxidization method of a titanium material according to claim 4, wherein a vessel is used for purification of the metal salt and said vessel is also used for said

dissolving and bringing into contact steps ~~the exactly same vessel used for the purification of the~~
~~metal salt is used.~~

7. (previously presented) A method of producing a titanium material which comprises conducting molten salt electrolysis by using a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 1 for electrolytic bath.

8. (original) A production method of a titanium material according to claim 7, wherein an LiCl-KCl system mixed salt is used under electrolysis as the molten salt.

9. (previously presented) A production method of a titanium material according to claim 7, wherein the exactly same vessel used for the purification of metal salt is used.

10. (previously presented) A purification method of a metal salt according to claim 2, wherein foil-like titanium is used as an adsorbent.

11. (previously presented) A method of deoxidizing a titanium material comprising dissolving metallic calcium to a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 2 and bringing the same into contact with the titanium material.

12. (previously presented) A deoxidization method of a titanium material according to claim 5, wherein the exactly same vessel used for the purification of the metal salt is used.

13. (previously presented) A method of producing a titanium material which comprises conducting molten salt electrolysis by using a molten product of a metal salt purified by the purification method according to claim 2 for electrolytic bath.

14. (currently amended) A production method of a titanium material according to claim 8, wherein a vessel is used for purification of the metal salt and said vessel is also used for said dissolving and bringing into contact steps ~~the exactly same vessel used for the purification of the metal salt is used.~~

15. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the titanium is added to a bath of the molten salt for the purifying step.

16. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the titanium is added to a bath of the molten salt for the purifying step.